

City of Kemah Fall Newsletter

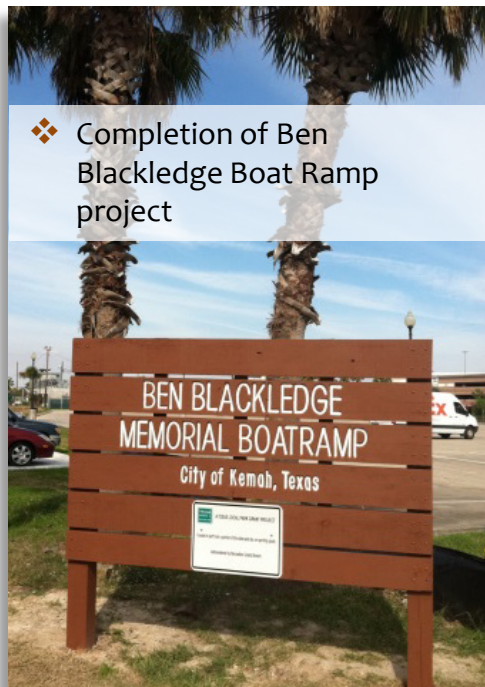
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FROM THE DESK OF
THE MAYOR

November/December 2013



Project Updates



- ❖ Completion of Ben Blackledge Boat Ramp project



- ❖ Resurfaced basketball court and repaired goals at Cien Park



- ❖ Finalized Environmental Clearance & Design for West Kemah Streets (CDBG 2.2), Estimated January Construction start (10 month phased project)

Events

- ❖ Inaugural **Oktoberfest** was a very successful city event, which featured food, music, and imported beverages. Over 4,000 attendees were at the event on Saturday alone. In addition to increased hotel-motel visitation and sales tax generated, the event promoter, Gulf Coast Festivals also made a \$4,000 contribution to the City general fund.



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Salute to Military Service Weekend Hosted by Kemah Boardwalk and Sponsored by City of Kemah:

- ❖ Hosted 100 wounded veterans and their families
- ❖ Historic Military Hardware Displays including those by Buffalo Soldiers Museum and Red Tail/Tuskegee Airmen
- ❖ Parachute Demo at Kemah Boardwalk Plaza
- ❖ Swearing in of New Recruits

Christmas in Kemah events scheduled include the following:

- ❖ Santa in the Lighthouse District each weekend in December
- ❖ Santa Secret Shopper treasure Hunt throughout December
- ❖ Christmas in Kemah Open House- November 29th 6:00 pm
- ❖ Christmas Tree Lighting- November 29th 6:00 pm
- ❖ Petting Zoo - November 30th noon – 4pm
- ❖ Main/Children's Parade – December 7th 10 am
- ❖ Toy Drive/ Pub Crawl – December 13th Dusk
- ❖ 52nd Annual Christmas Boat Lane Parade- December 14th , Dusk
- ❖ Pancakes with Santa – December 14th 8:00-9:30 am Community Center
- ❖ Preludes Ballet Vignette at the Boardwalk – December 21st



Economic Development - SHOP KEMAH:



Some of the New Businesses, non-profits and attractions that have opened in Kemah this Fall:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| ❖ ALDI Food Market (FM 518) | ❖ Teresa's Taqueria (SH 146) |
| ❖ Goodwill Drop-off (FM 518) | ❖ T-Mobile Store (FM 518) |
| ❖ Skallywags (6 th @ Bradford) | ❖ ZIP Line (Kemah Boardwalk) |
| ❖ Tutti Frutti Yogurt (FM 518) | |

In Memory of:

**Julie Gibb &
Maria Simmons**

Police Department News:

- ❖ Welcomes new F/T Patrol Officer Jesse Guzman
- ❖ Reminder that KPD/DPS will be working a DWI Task Force Thanksgiving Weekend

Kemah Transportation Center

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: What is the Kemah Transportation Center?

Answer: The Kemah Transportation Center will feature 500+ park & ride parking spaces, visitor information kiosks, and accommodations for cyclists and pedestrians, and will include aesthetic community improvements.

Q: What is the estimated construction cost for the Kemah Transportation Center?

A: \$12.1 million.

Q: Will the development of the Kemah Transportation Center require the City of Kemah to expend dollars from the general fund ?

A: No.

Q: Will the Kemah Transportation Center require an increase in existing taxes, or the creation of any new taxes to the residents of Kemah ?

A: No.

Q: Will the Kemah Transportation Center require The City of Kemah to incur any debt?

A: No.

Q: How will the Kemah Transportation Center be funded?

A: Federal grant funding.

Q: How will the Kemah Transportation Center bus and facility operations be funded?

A: All operating costs fall to the Gulf Coast Center. But, excess revenue could come back to the city.

Q: What are the non-public transportation benefits?

A: The Kemah Transportation Center could include some shell space for retail activities, Veterans Memorial, Visitor's Center, City park and landscaped pedestrian walkway at no additional cost to the city.

Q: What are the environmental benefits?

A: It is estimated that the Kemah Transportation Center will facilitate the reduction of 32 tons of pollution annually.

Q: What are the economic benefits?

A: The Kemah Transportation Center is projected to generate \$1.2 million in annual revenue.

If you have comments, we want to hear from you. Please contact us through the web at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/kemah>



Kemah Mobility Challenges & Opportunities

The City of Kemah along with the Gulf Coast Center have successfully pursued and secured funding to support several important transportation improvements which can lead to economic development, a better and safer pedestrian environment and increased mobility for residents and visitors.

Mobility Impacts

Kemah has been instrumental in securing approximately \$250 Million in funding to improve mobility for the future. Projects include:

- **State Highway 146 extension between Red Bluff and FM 518 in Kemah** – The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) Transportation Policy Council (TPC) approved the allocation of \$232 million to widen this very congested corridor between Red Bluff and FM 518 in Kemah.
- **Kemah Transportation Center** - Detailed planning studies have identified the demand for a Kemah Transportation Center to manage commuter related park and ride demand to both Galveston and Houston, and the growing amount of visitors seeking access to Kemah. The H-GAC TPC approved approximately \$12.2 million in FY 2014 – FY 2016 for preliminary engineering, design, and construction.
- **Transit Shuttle Acquisition** – The Gulf Coast Center has received \$800,000 in federal funding to support the purchase of transit shuttle vehicles to serve Kemah's Lighthouse District.

Mobility Challenges

The funding secured is in response to the mobility challenges that face Kemah in the future, including:

- Providing better access for residents and visitors to popular areas, including the Lighthouse District.
- Improving pedestrian access and connections for safer travel throughout the City.
- Addressing the growing traffic conditions and congestion in the area.
- Encouraging economic development and land use in the area.

Kemah Transportation Center

The Kemah Transportation Center will feature 500+ park & ride parking spaces, visitor information kiosks, and accommodations for cyclists and pedestrians, and will include aesthetic community improvements, including shell space for retail activities, Veterans Memorial, Visitor's Center, City park and landscaped pedestrian walkway at no additional cost to the city.

Location

As proposed, the facility would be located on the current City parking lot site (6th Street at Harris Street), behind the Kemah Visitors' Center. This central location within the Lighthouse District will provide additional access and exposure for local Kemah businesses. The Kemah Visitors' Center will benefit, and serve as a central focal point for commuters, visitors and pedestrians.

Benefits of the Kemah Transportation Center

Community Benefits

The proposed project would create a safe, convenient, walkable, and state-of-the-art transportation infrastructure that will help connect transit to major residential areas, essential services, and jobs. Enhancing transportation infrastructure in the Kemah area would result in maintaining and building a strong business climate. The Kemah Transportation Center will reflect design excellence. It would add to the identity, durability, connectivity, and walkability of Kemah.

User Benefits

The average parking and commute cost from Kemah to downtown Houston is approximately \$40. The bus fare will be set between \$10 and \$12 round trip, which provides the user additional income that can be added back to the local economy. The commuter bus will be over-the-road coaches with available wi-fi.

Economic Benefits

Federal grant funds will be used to design and construct the Kemah Transportation Center. No City of Kemah general funds will be used to fund the Kemah Transportation Center. The Kemah Transportation Center will potentially generate an additional \$650,000 to City of Kemah revenue. Studies across the nation indicate that investments in transportation infrastructure will enhance local economic development and help build a strong business climate.

Environmental Benefits

The Houston-Galveston-Brazoria area air quality does not meet federal air quality standards. The Kemah Transportation Center will facilitate the ability through commuter bus service to decreased automobile use, which will reduce air pollutants by 32 tons per year.

